

IN THE CLAIMS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims will be as is shown below. This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic endoscope system having an electronic endoscope and a processor that processes an output of the electronic endoscope,

the electronic endoscope including:

an image capturing element adapted to capture an image of an object to be observed;

a signal processing circuit that receives the output of the image capturing element and generates a digital video signal including a region included in a horizontal blanking interval;

a digitized information outputting system that outputs digitized information representing at least information intrinsic to the electronic endoscope and control information for the processor; and

a digitized information superimposing system that superimposes the digitized information output by the digitized information outputting system on the digital video signal output by the signal processing circuit in the region included in the horizontal blanking interval.

2. (Original) The electronic endoscope system according to claim 1,
wherein the electronic endoscope is provided with a storage, which stores the
information intrinsic to the electronic endoscope, the digitized information outputting
system retrieving the information intrinsic to the electronic endoscope from the storage.

3. (Original) The electronic endoscope system according to claim 1,
wherein the information intrinsic to the electronic endoscope includes a type of
the electronic endoscope.

4. (Currently Amended) The electronic endoscope system according to claim 3,
wherein the electronic endoscope outputs the digital video signal including the
superimposed digitized information in the region included in the horizontal blanking
interval to the processor, and
wherein the processor processes the digital video signal extracted from the output
of the electronic endoscope in accordance with the information intrinsic to the electronic
endoscope.

5. (Original) The electronic endoscope system according to claim 1,
wherein the electronic endoscope is provided with at least one operable member
which can be operated by a user, and
wherein the digitized information outputting system outputs the control
information in response to an operation of the at least one operable member.

6. (Currently Amended) The electronic endoscope system according to claim 5, wherein the processor includes an extracting system that extracts the digitized information from the digital video signal including the superimposed digitized information in the region included in the horizontal blanking interval.

7. (Original) The electronic endoscope system according to claim 6, wherein the processor includes a controller that controls a device to which the digitized information as extracted is directed.

8. (Original) The electronic endoscope system according to claim 7, wherein the processor is connected with a displaying device, the controller controlling the displaying device in accordance with the control information represented by the digitized information.

9. (Original) The electronic endoscope system according to claim 7, wherein the processor is connected with a printing device, the controller controlling the printing device in accordance with the control information represented by the digitized information.

10. (Original) The electronic endoscope system according to claim 1, wherein the digital video signal output by the signal processing system includes luminance signal and color difference signals which are multiplexed in accordance with a time-division multiplexing method.

11. (Currently Amended) The electronic endoscope system according to claim 10,

wherein the digitized information superimposing system superimposes the digitized information in the region included in the horizontal blanking interval such that the luminance signal, color difference signals and the digitized information are multiplexed in accordance with a time-division multiplexing method.

12. (Original) The electronic endoscope system according to claim 11, wherein the multiplexed luminance signal, color difference signals and the digitized information is a parallel digital video signal, and

wherein the electronic endoscope further includes a converting system that converts the parallel digital video signal into a serial digital video signal.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a processor of an electronic endoscope system that includes an electronic endoscope and the processor, comprising:

the electronic endoscope generating a digital video signal including a region included in a horizontal blanking interval;

the electronic endoscope superimposing control information in the region included in the horizontal blanking interval to control the processor on the digital video signal;

the electronic endoscope transmitting the superimposed digital video signal including the control information superimposed in the region included in the horizontal blanking interval;

the processor receiving the superimposed digital video signal and extracting the control information from the region included in the horizontal blanking interval; and the processor operating in accordance with the control information.